

## **Battle Creek**

**April 11, 2011**

**Present from school:** Jay Bellar, Jeff Heimes, Kyle Finke, Cindy Rotter-Hansen

**Present from ESU 8:** Randy Peck, Carol Jessen, Ruth Miller, Jill Bates

### School improvement goals:

- Using a balanced literacy approach, all students will increase their reading comprehension scores.
- Engaging students
- Community support

### How can ESU 8 support your district in reaching these goals:

- Parent and community involvement
  - e.g. open house nights, PK and K roundup, 6-7<sup>th</sup> grade transition day [8 to Great character ed program (8 highways – goal setting, team building)], 7<sup>th</sup> grade orientation, booster clubs, hot dog feed to kick off fall sports, parent group is working on “what matters” as parents and teachers to support the school (10 standards of expectation)
- Reading programs and instructional strategies at the secondary level
  - Marzano instructional strategies – teachers read and discussed “The Art of Teaching”
  - PD360

### Professional development needs (teachers):

- 7-12 reading
- Instructional strategies
- QAR said to focus on using their own “strong” teachers for professional developments
- Continue RtI process
- MAP
- “Job alike” meetings – Common inservice days with other schools
- Darus Mettler has worked a lot in Battle Creek; Jay Bellar likes the ESU 8 personnel to come into the school instead of having teachers miss work
- PowerSchool – Can always use help. ESU 8 will check on this.
  - Battle Creek, Pierce, Elkhorn Valley
- Incorporate technology training into staff development days
  - e.g. Google Docs

### Professional development needs (administrators):

- Technology – however “it’s available”
- Principals’ meetings at ESU 8 – if not well attended, perhaps hold every other year. Discuss policies, etc. Could it be done with polycom?
- Walk through form for principals (e.g. Marzano engagement, learning activities). Growth tool for principals to use with teachers.

Feedback from staff:

- Program/service delivery has been good – “it’s available”
- Young SPED teacher – provisionally endorsed. Could ESU 8 help with the SPED files?
- Darus did a wonderful job working with the principal and a SPED issue.
- The NSSRS workdays with Russ are wonderful.
- The SPED Department and Linda Hughes are wonderful, too.

How can ESU 8 improve communication:

- Communication is excellent – quick responses from ESU 8 staff
- Survey of Program & Services
  - Time frame was fine (December)
  - Send it to principals only – let them forward it to all staff members.
  - “Short deadline” for completion
- Send targeted emails to principals about workshops instead of teachers.
  - Jay doesn’t like the teachers being out of the classroom.
- Staff is more aware of what ESU 8 can offer
  - Perhaps an ESU 8 staff member could attend a staff development day and talk about the Unit

“Top two” ways that ESU 8 can support district during 2011-12:

- Reading strategies 7-12
- Engaging students
  - Walk through form for principals (e.g. Marzano engagement, learning activities). Growth tool for principals to use with teachers.

Additional comments:

- Preliminary data for math gr 7-8 look “pretty good.”
- Terra Nova and PLAN scores indicate math is okay.
- Do more with literacy circles with staff.